

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A moving handrail for a passenger conveyor including a linear belt of which two end portions are connected forming a loop; of said linear belt, said linear belt ~~being composed of~~ including:
 at least one layer of a single layer or multilayer of thermoplastic elastomer of having
 a C-shape in cross section;
 metallic and web-shaped metal stretch inhibitors disposed along a longitudinal direction of said thermoplastic elastomer; and
 base members coupled inside of said thermoplastic elastomer₁, said thermoplastic elastomer, metal stretch inhibitor₁ and base member being integrally molded₁, wherein, at ~~said~~ a connection portion forming ~~a the loop of said belt~~, a splice junction between said metal stretch inhibitors and a joint where ~~the said~~ base members are connected together at ~~both end portions with the use of an auxiliary backing are disposed so as, do not to overlap in a~~ direction of thickness of the moving handrail₁, and said metal stretch inhibitors ~~having been spliced~~ are enclosed ~~with in~~ in a thermoplastic elastomer.

2. (Original) The moving handrail for a passenger conveyor according to claim 1, wherein both end portions of said metal stretch inhibitors of said connection portion are overlapped and spliced together so as to sandwich a buffer layer composed of both or either one of a thermoplastic resin sheet and a thermosetting rein sheet, otherwise via a buffer layer directly applied with a liquid resin, and said metal stretch inhibitors having been spliced are enclosed with a thermoplastic elastomer.

3. (Currently Amended) The moving handrail for a passenger conveyor according to claim 1, wherein:

 said linear belt ~~is composed of~~ includes an inner layer thermoplastic elastomer ~~of having a C-shape in cross section and an outer layer thermoplastic elastomer of having an~~ elastic modulus different from ~~that of~~ said inner layer thermoplastic elastomer; and

 said connection portion forming ~~a the loop of said belt~~ comprises a butt joint where ends of said inner layer thermoplastic elastomer ~~is abutting at both ends thereof that are formed into~~ abut along one of a straight line inclined at an angle of more than 0° to and less than 90° with respect to a the longitudinal direction, or into and a curved line.

4. (Currently Amended) The moving handrail for a passenger conveyor according to claim 1, wherein:

said linear belt ~~is composed of~~ includes an inner layer thermoplastic elastomer ~~of having~~ a C-shape in cross section and an outer layer thermoplastic elastomer ~~of having~~ an elastic modulus different from ~~that of~~ said inner layer thermoplastic elastomer; and

~~there is provided a gap of not less than 1 mm at~~ a butt joint between the ends of said inner layer thermoplastic elastomer includes a gap of not less than 1mm.

5. (Original) A moving handrail for a passenger conveyor including a linear belt of which two end portions are connected forming a loop;

said linear belt being composed of: a single-layer or multilayer of thermoplastic elastomer of C-shape in cross section;

metallic and web-shaped metal stretch inhibitors disposed along a longitudinal direction of the thermoplastic elastomer; and

base members coupled inside of said thermoplastic elastomer; said thermoplastic elastomer, metal stretch inhibitor and base member being integrally molded;

wherein said connection portion of said moving handrail for a passenger conveyor comprises: a splice junction between said metal stretch inhibitors; and a joint where both ends of the base member are formed into a straight line inclined at an angle of more than 0° to less than 90° with respect to a longitudinal direction or into a curved line and connected together with the use of an auxiliary backing overlapped therewith in the same overlapping width; and

said splice junction between the metal stretch inhibitors is covered with the thermoplastic elastomer.

6. (Original) The moving handrail for a passenger conveyor according to claim 5, wherein both end portions of said metal stretch inhibitors of said connection portion are overlapped and spliced together so as to sandwich a buffer layer composed of both or either one of a thermoplastic resin sheet and a thermosetting rein sheet, otherwise via a buffer layer directly applied with a liquid resin, and said metal stretch inhibitors having been spliced are enclosed with a thermoplastic elastomer.

7. (Currently Amended) A moving handrail for a passenger conveyor including a linear belt of which two end portions are connected forming a loop; of said linear belt, said linear belt ~~being composed of~~ including:

In re Appln. of ONODERA et al.
Application No. Unassigned

~~a single layer or multilayer~~ at least one layer of a thermoplastic elastomer of having
a C-shape in cross section;

metallic and web-shaped metal stretch inhibitors disposed along a longitudinal
direction of ~~the said~~ thermoplastic elastomer; and

base members coupled inside of said thermoplastic elastomer; said thermoplastic
elastomer₁, metal stretch inhibitor₁, and base member being integrally molded₁, wherein ~~said a~~
connection portion of said moving handrail for a passenger conveyor comprises:

a splice junction where said metal stretch inhibitors are overlapped and
spliced ~~so that~~, both end portions having ~~been formed into~~ one of a straight line inclined at an
angle of more than 0° ~~to~~ and less than 90° with respect to ~~a the~~ longitudinal direction ~~or into~~
and a curved line may be overlapped in, overlapping with the same width; and

a joint where the base members at both end portions are connected together
with ~~the use of~~ an auxiliary backing₁, and said splice junction between the metal stretch
inhibitors is covered with the thermoplastic elastomer.

8. (Original) The moving handrail for a passenger conveyor according to claim 7,
wherein both end portions of said metal stretch inhibitors of said connection portion are
overlapped and spliced together so as to sandwich a buffer layer composed of both or either
one of a thermoplastic resin sheet and a thermosetting rein sheet, otherwise via a buffer layer
directly applied with a liquid resin, and said metal stretch inhibitors having been spliced are
enclosed with a thermoplastic elastomer.